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Frederick County Health Department

# News Release

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## Seeking Owner of White Boxer-type Dog with Dark Spots on Its Skin; Woman Bitten in Ballenger Creek Dog Park in Frederick City

**FREDERICK, MD** – The Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) received a report that a woman was bitten by unidentified dog on February 19, 2014 around 2:30pm in Ballenger Creek Dog Park in Frederick, Maryland. The FCHD needs to speak with the owner of the dog so that the bite victim may avoid receiving unnecessary post-exposure rabies vaccinations.

The Frederick County Animal Control (FCAC) Officer advised that it was a medium-size, deaf female, white boxer type dog with dark spots on its skin. The dog was brought to the dog park by a Caucasian female who also had a large brown Shepherd-mix dog with her which was not involved in the altercation. Anyone who has information about the owner's identity is asked to contact the FCHD at 301-600-1717 or FCAC at 301-600-1544.

George Keller, Director for the Health Department's Environmental Health Services advises the public, "To protect your family from possible rabies exposure, do not touch or play with wild or stray animals and make sure that your pets are currently vaccinated."

Rabies is a viral disease that infects mammals (warm-blooded animals who nurse their young) and is spread by the saliva of the infected animal. Human cases of rabies are fatal if untreated. Symptoms of rabies in animals can include fear of water, limping, salivating, unusually friendly or aggressive behavior, or other atypical behaviors such as nocturnal animals emerging during the daytime.

If you or someone in your family is bitten or scratched by a dog or cat, you should contact FCAC for assistance at 301-600-1544. Please attempt to obtain contact information from the animal owner so that appropriate action can be taken.

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